Sale of protected bird species

3378. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sale of Bustard Quail, a small bird, which is protected species under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is going on Chandrapur in Maharashtra, for last many years, with impunity;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the wild variety of the bird is served in many restaurants at Chandrapur, openly; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to stop the sale of the protected bird species?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) According to the report given by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra no wild quails are being served in the restaurants at Chandrapur. Restaurants are serving Japanese quail bred in captivity by a breeding farm licensed under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The action taken and proposed to be taken to protect the Bustard Quail against illegal hunting include:—

1. Maintaining vigilance on markets, restaurants and other likely places of trade in birds.
2. Keeping strict watch on traditional trappers and other poachers.
3. Educating the protection and other field staff about the difference between the Japanese quails and wild quails.
4. Keeping a watch on the farms licensed to deal in Japanese quails.

SC reprimand about pollution

3379. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has reprimanded the Government agencies for not being concerned about the health of the people in the cities and for non-compliance of pollution related laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Court has also considered the day-by-day increasing level of pollution as more serious, than the Bhopal gas tragedy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the diseases related to respiratory system and heart are constantly, on the increase due to pollution in cities; and

(f) if so, what action Government are going to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) The Supreme Court in its order dated 5th April, 2002, in respect of a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13029 of 1985 M.C. Mehta *Vs.* Union of India and Others has referred to the reports of the Central Pollution Control Board and other reports on environmental pollution and consequential health effects including non-compliance with environmental standards. The Court expressed its concern over the deterioration of air quality and its impact on health in some cities. Even though the incidences of respiratory ailments have been reported in major cities, there is no conclusive data available indicating increase in respiratory and cardio-vascular diseases attributable to pollution. The steps taken by the Government to control pollution include the following:—

(i) The Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted a Committee on Environment and Health to develop appropriate policy, strategy and action plan regarding environmental health. The report of the Committee has been accepted by the Government. As a follow up of the recommendations, an Environmental Health Cell has been constituted and a number of environmental health studies have been commissioned to generate the data base.

(ii) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the preventive and control aspects of pollution has been evolved.

(iii) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments including Delhi.

(iv) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel has also been introduced in major cities.

(v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG vehicles.

(vi) Benzene content in petrol has been reduced.

(vii) A network of 295 Ambient Air Quality and 507 Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Stations have been set up throughout the country.

(viii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(ix) Steps have been taken to control pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

(x) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipments before commissioning of their plants.

(xi) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for discharging their effluent and hazardous waste.

(xii) Environmental Action Plans for 24 critically polluted areas have been prepared and are under implementation.

Fuelwood and Fodder Projects

3380. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS to be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned area-oriented fuelwood and fodder projects in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in Tribals dominated areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and district wise;

(c) whether these projects have achieved the desired results; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A consolidated scheme at a total cost of Rs. 1320.08 lakhs (Rupees thriteen crore twenty lakh eight thousand only) with central assistance